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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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HEART OF CORN BELT ADOPTS HYBRID SEED ON NEARLY 100 PERCENT OF ACREAGE

Nearly complete adoption of hybrid corn in the heart of the Corn Belt was shown today by the Crop Reporting Board's special report for 1942. Comprehensive data for 1941, including results of surveys made by the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, show that nearly a third of the counties in Iowa and a fourth in Illinois planted over 99 percent of their corn acreage with hybrid seed. Current surveys for 1942 indicate that in two-thirds of the counties in Iowa and one-half of those in Illinois at least 99 percent of this year's corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed. Sizable blocks of counties in southern Minnesota, northwestern Indiana, and Ohio, as well as scattered counties in Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Missouri have 99 percent of their 1942 corn acreage planted to hybrids.

Even on a State basis nearly 100 percent adoption of hybrid corn has been attained. In Iowa, the 1942 corn acreage planted with hybrid seed is 98 percent of the total corn acreage, while in Illinois and Indiana hybrid corn acreage as a percent of the total is 93 and 91 respectively.

The 20 percent belt of hybrid seed adoption widened materially from 1941 to 1942. It spread into northern Minnesota and southeastern North Dakota, and includes most of the eastern half of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. This belt also widened to the south and east of the Corn Belt States. While the history of hybrid development in the Corn Belt shows a jump from 20 percent adoption to over 90 percent in 4 years, the development in the areas surrounding the Corn Belt proper is not expected to be quite so rapid.

In 1942, about 41 million acres or approximately 45 percent of the total corn acreage in the United States was planted with hybrid seed. This is an increase of 7 million acres over the 34 million acres in 1941. In the Corn Belt where the development began and has spread rapidly in the past 5 years, the 1942 acreage planted to hybrid is estimated at 38 million acres or about 72 percent of the total. This compares to a start 10 years ago (1933) of 144 thousand acres when only two-tenths of one percent of the acreage in the Corn Belt was planted with hybrid seed. By 1937 this acreage had edged up to 13 percent of the total. Following 1937 the rate of adoption was spectacular. In 1938 about 26 percent of the acreage in the Corn Belt was planted with hybrid seed; in 1939, 39 percent; in 1940, 52 percent; and in 1941, 65 percent.

Material increases in the acreage planted to hybrid continue in the Pacific Northwest and in two areas in the Northeastern States--one centering around Connecticut and Rhode Island and the other in southeastern Pennsylvania and contiguous territory. Some advance has occurred in West Virginia, Kentucky, and the upper Delta country. However, the development of hybrids adapted to the Southern States still limits the spread of hybrid corn acreage in that area. In the Pacific Northwest the adoption of hybrid corn in the irrigated sections has been rapid.

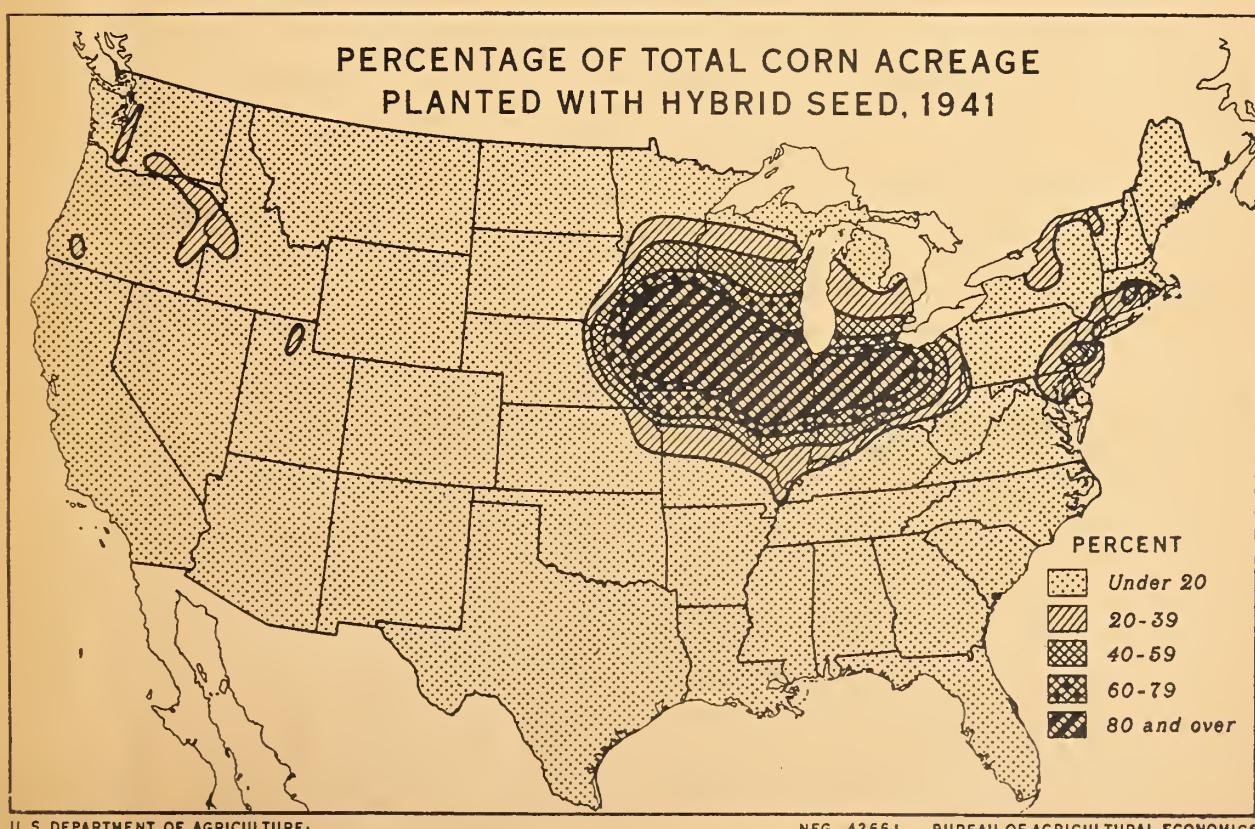
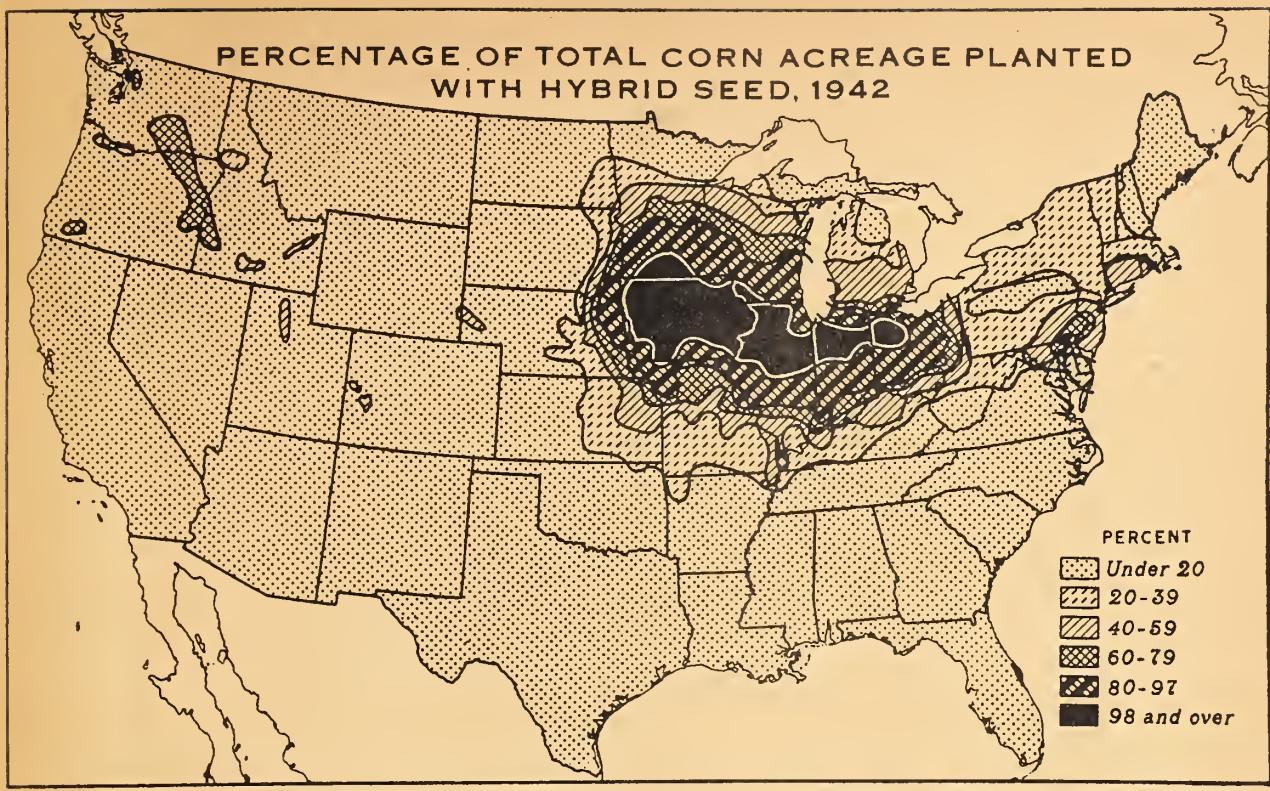
The contribution of hybrid corn to our national economy can best be realized when put in terms of bushels. The 2,270,921,000 bushels of corn in prospect in the 12 Corn Belt States on September 1, 1942 was about 300,000,000 bushels more than would have been produced with open-pollinated varieties. The increment can be attributed to the use of hybrid seed. This calculation assumes that hybrids will out-yield open-pollinated varieties under the same soil and weather conditions by 20 percent which may be a conservative allowance for the Corn Belt where more adaptable and higher yielding hybrids are continually being introduced.

CORN ACREAGE PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED, 1941-1942

State	1941 (Revised)		1942 (Preliminary)			
	Percentage	Indicated	Percentage	Indicated		
: All Corn : planted with: Hybrid corn: All Corn : planted with: Hybrid corn						
: Acreage : Hybrid seed: Acreage : Acreage : Hybrid seed: Acreage						
Thous.acres	Percent	Thousand acres	Percent	Thous.acres		
Maine	17	1.0	-	18	9.0	2
N.H.	15	10.0	2	15	15.0	2
Vt.	69	18.0	12	69	23.0	16
Mass.	41	12.0	5	42	20.0	8
R.I.	8	20.0	2	8	46.0	4
Conn.	47	40.0	19	47	58.0	27
N.Y.	676	17.8	120	703	22.0	155
N.J.	181	35.0	63	188	47.0	88
Pa.	1,282	25.1	321	1,308	36.0	471
Ohio	3,252	74.7	2,428	3,350	83.0	2,780
Ind.	3,934	83.2	3,272	4,091	91.0	3,723
Ill.	7,645	87.1	6,662	8,027	93.0	7,465
Mich.	1,509	38.6	582	1,584	52.0	824
Wis.	2,250	70.1	1,578	2,408	76.0	1,830
Minn.	4,410	73.4	3,236	4,851	80.0	3,881
Iowa	9,114	96.9	8,833	9,752	98.0	9,557
Mo.	3,904	42.9	1,673	4,451	58.0	2,582
N.Dak.	1,123	7.7	86	1,179	13.0	153
S.Dak.	3,018	24.7	745	3,139	35.0	1,099
Nebr.	6,822	37.0	2,522	7,300	47.0	3,431
Kans.	2,624	18.1	474	3,044	25.0	761
Corn Belt	49,605	64.7	32,090	53,176	71.6	38,086
Del.	133	17.5	23	137	33.0	45
Md.	446	27.9	125	455	39.0	177
Va.	1,267	4.3	55	1,330	6.0	80
W.Va.	397	12.2	49	421	22.0	93
N.C.	2,368	0.9	22	2,273	1.0	23
S.C.	1,653	1.0	17	1,603	1/	-
Ga.	4,000	1.0	40	3,720	1.0	37
Fla.	732	0.7	5	754	1.0	8
Ky.	2,610	13.5	352	2,740	24.0	658
Tenn.	2,730	4.6	124	2,812	6.0	169
Ala.	3,305	0.8	27	3,173	1.0	32
Miss.	3,093	2.8	86	2,969	4.0	119
Ark.	2,148	6.5	140	2,105	7.0	147
La.	1,548	2.1	33	1,440	2.0	29
Okla.	1,850	4.1	90	2,016	4.0	81
Tex.	5,079	0.7	38	5,638	1.0	56
Mont.	182	2.2	4	218	2.0	4
Idaho	53	34.7	18	56	49.0	27
Wyo.	160	2.1	3	150	3.0	4
Colo.	1,008	4.7	47	1,068	7.0	75
N.Mex.	215	3.1	7	215	4.0	9
Ariz.	41	1/	-	39	1/	-
Utah	28	8.2	2	26	11.0	3
Nev.	4	1.4	-	4	7.0	-
Wash.	35	23.6	8	37	38.0	14
Oreg.	59	24.9	15	54	44.0	24
Calif.	79	1/	-	71	1/	-
U.S.	87,164	39.0	33,965	91,098	44.8	40,773

1/ Less than one-half of one percent.

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